

ECFS - Email Filing

<PROCEEDING>96-45

<DATE>02/08/2005

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<TEXT>I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to raise the Universal Service rate to a flat fee charge. This would unfairly shift the burden of this expense to those like myself who can only afford to make a limited number of phone calls per month. This is not fair to many of us who cannot afford to own expensive cell phone rates but who use prepaid cell phone services for occasional emergency calls.

During this time of economic uncertainty, with the economy slowing down again, I cannot afford more taxes and service fees. My income has not increased over the last year--I am making less now than a year ago and prices continue to increase. How can one keep up with it all? It just doesn't seem fair to make us older Americans pay more and more when we need to save for retirement.

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Thanks for listening

Sincerely,

John Van't Land  
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